

Photo at left shows the Abbott house around 1850, only a few years after the addition at left was put up. The people are members of

1730 'Saltbox' In Hamilton

Historic House Worth Saving, Say Experts

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Staff Writer

Restoration experts yesterday said the historic John Abbott house in Hamilton Township is worth restoring to its original 1730 condition, but estimated at least \$50,000 will be needed to do the job.

The experts, Edwin Brumbaugh and Albert Futhrauff of Philadelphia, inspected the township-owned house at the

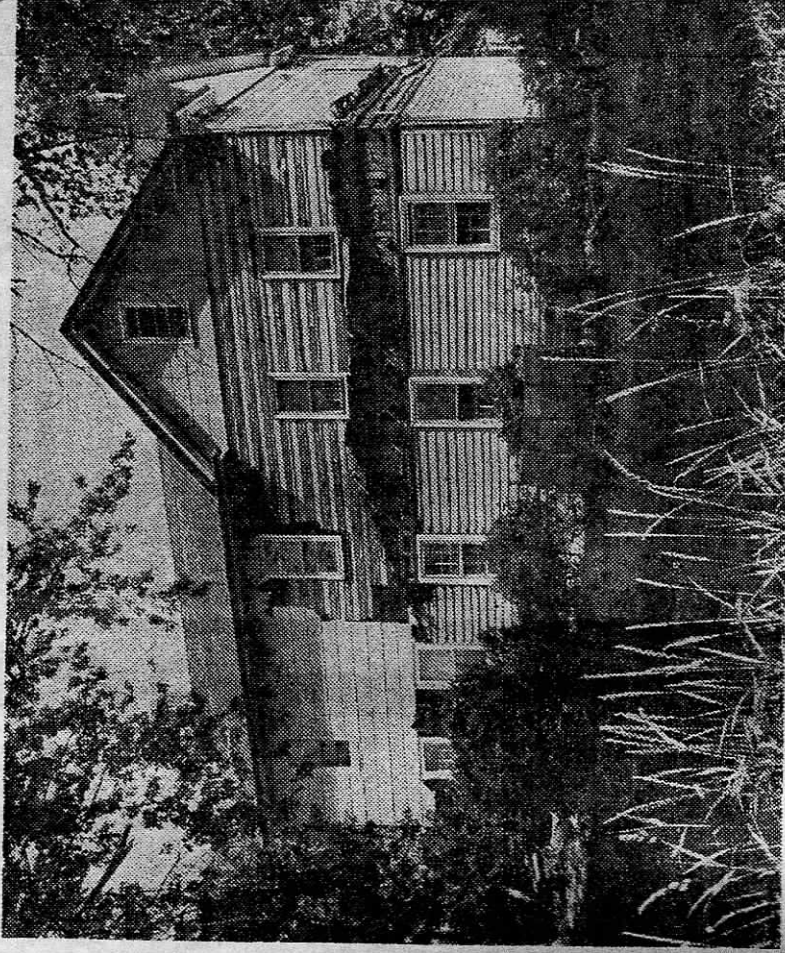
ship Historical Society, which wants to restore it.

The two said the house appears to be a colonial "saltbox"-type, which was common in New England but rare in New Jersey.

The property — where the contents of the New Jersey state treasury was hidden from the British for a time during the American Revolution) — is situated at 2200 Kuser Road.

done some work to expose the original construction, and the experts went over the exposed portions of the hand-hewn beams inside and out, working from clues such as paint and smoke marks and nail holes, to roughly determine the original layout of the house and its original exterior and interior finish.

They said the house will need a new roof, new siding



the Tindall family. At right, the house located in Hamilton Township, as it appears today.

They also said a wing added around 1840 would have to be moved elsewhere for the house to be authentic.

The society now has the problem of raising the money needed and hopes to get contributions from township individuals and businesses to finance the restoration of the house) which also serves as the society's headquarters.

The two experts said the significance but should also be restored as an example of colonial architecture. Its historical significance dates from 1776 when the British were advancing on Trenton during the Revolutionary War. Hearing of the British advance, Samuel Tucker wanted to save the state's treasury and on Nov. 30, 1776 he brought the public money to the

aged to hide most of it from the searching British by putting it in the bottom of a barrel and covering it with dirt and broken household utensils. Since it was built in 1730, the house and its surrounding farmland had been owned by the Abbott, Ivins and Tindall families. The house lies before the town der